



January 30, 2015

Board of
Supervisors



Rick Sanders
Chair



Paul Toot
Vice-Chair



Wayne Clinton

Story County, Iowa

900 6th Street
515-382-7200
Nevada, Iowa 50201

Our Story

Volume 2—Issue 1

State of the County

*By Rick Sanders—Chair of the Story
County Board of Supervisors*

2014 was another outstanding year in the operations and fiscal status of Story County. After more than 25 years of budgets with more expenditures than revenues, we were able to produce the first balanced budget for Story County in FY2014. We did it again in FY2015. And, as we work on our FY2016 budget, we have full confidence we will do it yet another year. Expenditures (-14%) and levy rates (-7%) are down since Paul Toot and I joined Wayne Clinton on the Board in 2011. Our budgeted ending fund balance (savings) has doubled during that timeframe. Our debt service is down as well.

While tackling the fiscal issues in Story County, we never lost sight of our vital role in the provision of services to residents. We have streamlined operations in several departments with a “public friendly” focus. Amounts spent in Secondary Roads (+14%) and Human Services through A.S.S.E.T. (+25%) have increased. In addition to that, we completed the County’s first comprehensive strategic plan, instituted a Capital Improvement Program, increased our involvement and funding toward economic development, and enhanced public grounds at Dakins Lake, Hickory Grove and McFarland Park.

County government provides essential services to create healthy, vibrant, and safe communities. Story County’s support and maintenance of public infrastructure, transportation and economic development assets; keep residents healthy; ensure public safety to protect our citizens; maintain public information; coordinate elections; and implement a broad array of federal, state and local programs in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

The Board of Supervisors serves as the executive and legislative branch of county government. We are the policymakers for Story County and administer various county programs. We review budget requests, appropriate funds, establish county tax levies, enact ordinances, fill employee vacancies, and hear reports from county officers. The Board meets weekly on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am in Nevada. Audio recordings of weekly meetings are available on our website at www.storycountyiowa.gov. And video is soon to come. In 2014, we conducted over 60 regular-scheduled meetings where the Board reviewed nearly 800 items, taking action to adopt ordinances, policies, and procedures.

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Visit us online at **www.storycountyiowa.gov**

Elected Officials



**Treasurer
Renee Twedt**



**Recorder
Stacie Herridge**



**Sheriff
Paul Fitzgerald**



**County Attorney
Stephen Holmes**



**Auditor
Lucy Martin**

ARE YOU GETTING THE CREDITS YOU DESERVE?

From Renee M. Twedt, Story County Treasurer

Homestead Credit

Owner must be a resident of Iowa and occupy the property on July 1 and for at least six months of every year.

Military Exemption

Owner must be a resident of Iowa, have been in full time active duty during a war or conflict or served 18 months of active duty and honorably discharged. New applications for either homestead or military exemption must be made with the Assessor on or before July 1 of the year the exemption or credit is first claimed. Homestead and Military need only apply once unless you move into a different residence.

Business Property Tax Credit

For Commercial or Industrial parcels, contact the appropriate Assessor.

- ◆ City of Ames residents contact the Ames Assessor at 515-239-5370
- ◆ All other County residence contact the Story County Assessor at 515-382-7320

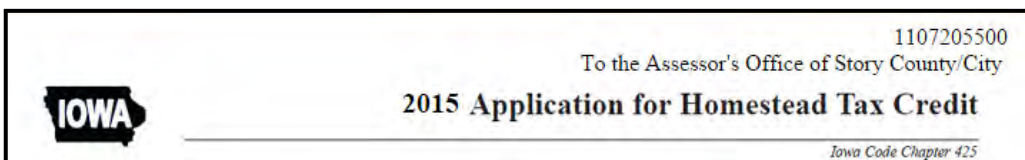
Mobile Homes

Owner must be 23 years of age or older by December 31, 2014 and your household income was less than \$22,011.00. Mobile home owners must

file the application with the county treasurer's office by June 1, to receive a tax credit and exemption.

Disabled & Senior Citizens

Must be 65 or older or totally disabled and 18 years of age or older by December 31, 2014 and have household income of less than \$22,011.00. Property owners must file a claim with the county treasurer by June 1 preceding the fiscal year in which the property taxes are due. Please note, Disabled and Senior Citizens must file a yearly application.

Contact the Story County Treasurer for information
regarding these credits at 515-382-7330
or visit our websites at:

www.storycountyiowa.gov and www.iowatreasurers.org.

Review of Senate File 295

New Business Property Tax Credit



From Wayne Schwickerath—Story County Assessor



The 2013 legislature passed Senate File 295 which has created a massive property tax reform for commercial property owners in the State of Iowa. This legislation has created a new Business Property Tax Credit, a Multi-Residential classification, a new Dual Class classification and an adjusted rollback factor for each of these classes of property.

The Business Property Tax Credit is available for certain commercial, industrial and railroad properties. The credit does not apply to residential or agricultural classified properties. One credit is available for each qualified unit. A property unit consists of contiguous parcels of the same classification that are owned by the same person, located in the same county and operated by that person for a Common Use and Purpose. (The following questions need to be answered to verify the “Common Use & Purpose” test which is used to determine the number of units that qualify for the credit).

- ◆ Is this parcel owner occupied or leased?
- ◆ What is the Name of the Business (DBA) operating on this parcel?
- ◆ Are there any apartments or residential areas located on this property?
- ◆ If so, how many apartments?
- ◆ Are the apartments livable or rented?

This credit is a one-time sign-up unless the ownership or property usage changes. Applications for credit against the 2013 property tax assessments were to be received by the Story County Assessor by January 15, 2014. Any applications received after January 15, 2014, will be considered applications for the next year. The deadline for filing for the 2014 assessment year and each year thereafter is March 15th.

The actual amount of credit each property unit will receive depends in part upon the total value of all property tax units statewide and the average consolidated tax rates in each unit. The credit calculation is designed to spend ninety-eight percent of the amount appropriated by the 2013 Iowa Legislature to the Business Property Tax Credit Fund. The legislature appropriated \$50 million dollars for the 2014-2015 fiscal year, \$100 million dollars for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, and \$125 million for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The fund is capped at \$125 million dollars. The credit will be deducted from the property taxes owed and shown on your property tax statement beginning with taxes payable in September of 2014 and March of 2015.

The credit allowed for the 2013 assessment for taxes which were payable for the 2014-2015 fiscal year was up to a \$950.00 credit on the first \$59,000 in taxable value. The credit for future years will depend upon how much credit is requested statewide versus the amount that has been appropriated for each fiscal year.

New Multi-Residential Classification:

- A. The following types of properties do not qualify for the business tax credit; but will be reclassified to a new class called multi-residential for the January 1, 2015 assessment.
1. Property that is rented or leased under Section 42 Housing;
 2. Hotels/Motels/Inns which are rented for more than 30 days per time
 3. Mobile Home Parks
 4. Manufactured home communities
 5. Land leased communities
 6. Assisted living facilities
 7. Nursing homes
 8. All property defined in 441.21, subsection 13: Property that is primarily used or intended for human habitation containing three (3) or more separate dwelling units. This includes apartment buildings and dwellings converted to three (3) or more apartments which are classified as commercial.

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Review of Senate File 295

New Business Property Tax Credit—Continued from Page 3

Rollback Factors

- A. All property classified as commercial, industrial or railroads will be taxed on 95% of the assessed value for 2013 and at 90% of the assessed value for the 2014 assessment. The rollback will remain at 90% of the assessed value after the 2014 year. Prior to 2013 all these classes paid on 100% of their assessed value.
- B. Starting with the January 1, 2015 assessment, all property described above will be classified as multi-residential and will have a rollback factor as follows:
 - 1. 2015 Assessment 86.25% factor
 - 2. 2016 Assessment 82.50% factor
 - 3. 2017 Assessment 78.75% factor
 - 4. 2018 Assessment 75.00% factor
 - 5. 2019 Assessment 71.25% factor
 - 6. 2020 Assessment 67.50% factor
 - 7. 2021 Assessment 63.75% factor
 - 8. 2022 Assessment = (equals) residential rollback @ that time .
 - 9. (Current 2013 residential rollback factor is 54.40%)

New Multi-Residential-Dual Classification

- A. Starting January 1, 2015---Portions of properties which contain less than three units which are used or intended to be used for human habitation (and a portion of the land) regardless of the number of units and that is not otherwise classified as residential.
- B. An example of a property with a multi-residential dual classification would be a retail building which has a commercial use on the first floor and two apartments on the second floor. The assessor will be required to separate the commercial value and the multi-residential value on these parcels. The commercial value will pay on the commercial rollback factor (95% for 2013 and 90% for 2014) and the multi-residential value portion will pay on the current multi-residential rollback factor for the year of the application. (The current 2013 residential rollback factor is 54.40%). The business tax credit will be credited toward the commercial portion of the total value.

Allowable Growth – Residential & Agricultural Class

- A. Current law allows a taxable valuation growth of 4% for the residential and agricultural class statewide. The new 2013 legislation changed the current allowable growth of 4% to 3% and the two classes will continue to be tied together.

In conclusion, you can see that Senate File 295 is a complex piece of legislation with many changes in the assessment and taxation of commercial, industrial and railroad classed properties. The Iowa Department of Revenue has been working for the past several months with local government agencies to develop the tax credit and valuation process through the tax collection which is associated with this legislation.

The Story County Assessor's Office mailed out the original 2013 application (excluding the City of Ames) to the eligible property owners to make them aware of this new credit and law changes created by Senate File 295. We had a 93% return of the applications for this credit. Any applications received after the January 15, 2014 deadline, will be considered applications for the next year. The deadline for filing for the 2014 assessment year and each year thereafter is March 15th.

The application form and additional information is available on the Story County Assessor's website at www.storycountyiowa.gov/assessor. Click on the button named "Business Tax Credit". This will link you to the application form plus instructions and a link to the Iowa Department of Revenue site which describes additional criteria to qualify for this credit. The direct link to the Iowa Department of Revenue site is <https://tax.iowa.gov/2013-property-tax-reform>. You may also call the Story County Assessor's Office @ 515-382-7320 for questions concerning the above law changes.

Department 101

Get to Know...Story County Planning and Development

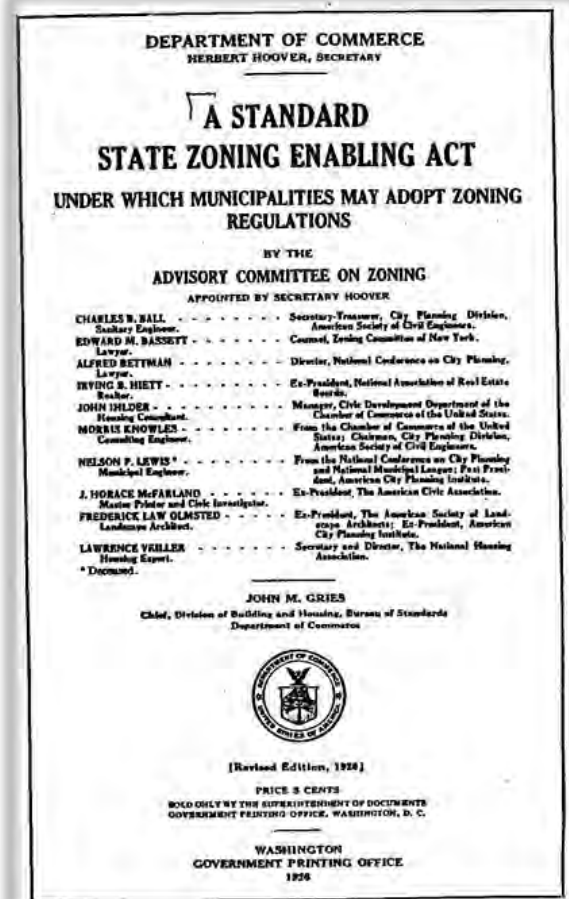
From Charlie Dissell—Director of P&D

In 1921, the Standard State Zoning Enabling Act was developed by an advisory committee on zoning appointed by then Secretary of Commerce, and Iowa native, Herbert Hoover. The Standard State Zoning Enabling Act included a grant of power, a provision that the legislative body could divide the local government's territory into districts, a statement of purpose for the zoning regulations, and procedures for establishing and amending the zoning regulations. Furthermore, the Standard State Zoning Enabling Act required a legislative body to establish a zoning commission to advise it on the initial development of zoning regulations. The State of Iowa adopted the Standard State Zoning Enabling Act for all cities in 1923 and later for counties with a population over 60,000 in 1947. During this time period, there were only six Counties in Iowa who had a population over 60,000, which did not include Story County. However, the State of Iowa extended the Standard State Zoning Enabling Act for all Counties in 1955.

On October 1, 1956, the Story County Planning and Zoning Commission, appointed by then Story County Supervisors Marvin Smith, T.G. Lundy and Wilbur Thornwall, held their first ever meeting to organize and start the process of adopting zoning for unincorporated Story County. The seven member commission, which included John Ames (Ames), Max Bailey (Ames), Glen Davis (Nevada), Ed Graff (Ames), Kermit Granseth (Slater), Fred McLain (Nevada), and Oscar Twedt (Roland), worked frivoulsly for the next 22 months drafting zoning regulations and holding multiple public hearings. The Commission recommended Story County's first zoning ordinance to the Board of Supervisors on July 29, 1958, and the Board of Supervisors adopted Story County's first zoning ordinance on September 2, 1958. That new zoning ordinance established the Story County Board of Adjustment, who held their first ever meeting on September 11, 1958.

The 1970 US Census showed a nearly 13,500 increase in population from the 1960 US Census, and it was obvious that Story County was continuing to see an increase in population through the 1970's. With the added growth pressures facing the unincorporated area, as well as most the cities in the County, it was obvious the County needed to have a plan in place to handle its increased growth. In 1975, the Story County Planning and Zoning Commission asked the Board of Supervisors to explore a land use plan, as well as zoning amendments, to meet the growth pressures the County was facing. In early 1976, the Story County Board of Supervisors hired a consultant to draft a land use plan, as well as review current zoning policies and regulations, to work with the Planning and Zoning Commission. After over a year of holding multiple public hearings, the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended, and the Board of Supervisors approved, Story County's first land use plan, a new zoning ordinance, and Story County's first standalone subdivision regulations.

Today, the Story County Planning and Development Department is responsible for managing the County Development Plan and the Land Development Regulations chapters of the Code of Ordinances. Those documents lay out a plan, as well as govern how property can be divided and the uses that are allowed on property in the unincorporated areas of Story County. In administering those plans and regulations, the department is responsible for approving plans, issuing



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permits, performing inspections, enforcing zoning regulations, planning, and making zoning recommendations for the unincorporated areas of Story County. The Planning and Development Department continues to work very closely with the Story County Planning and Zoning Commission and the Board of Adjustment. The Planning and Zoning Commission is still made up of seven residents, a majority of whom resided within the unincorporated areas of the county, and makes recommendations to the Story County Board of Adjustment and the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Adjustment is made up of five residents, a majority of whom resided within the unincorporated areas of the county, who make final decisions on development applications for conditional use permit requests, zoning appeals and variances. Our department also manages the Story County Interagency Review Team, which is a team of



County employees that review conceptual development plans and provide input to potential applicants, as well as review development application that are reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of Adjustment, and Board of Supervisors. The Interagency Review Team is made up of employees from the Assessor's, Auditor's, Conservation, Emergency Management, Engineer's, Environmental Health, and Planning and Development Office.

Through the years, Story County Planning and Development has had many employees. Past Directors/Zoning Administrators include Sam Steigerwalt, John Ames, Steiner Silence, Elmer Jensen, Ken Smith, Larry Niegowski, Les Beck and Leanne Harter. Today the department includes three full-time staff members, along with planning interns as budgets allow. The positions include a Director (Charlie Dissell), Planner (Ryan Newstrom), and Administrative Assistant (Kristin Cook). You can find us in the bottom level of the Story County Administration Building located at 900 6th Street, Nevada, Iowa.

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER PERMIT REPORT					
TYPE	2014 AVERAGE APPROXIMATE VALUE	NUMBERS			
		20 14	20 13	20 12	20 11
Accessory Uses	\$49,435	13	13	18	14
Commercial/Industrial	\$20,000	4	3	9	5
Dwelling Additions	\$36,745	5	8	8	5
New Dwellings	\$277,056	10	18	10	4
Fence	\$1,522	1	0	4	6
Total Number of Permits		33	42	49	34

For more information on developments occurring in unincorporated Story County, please contact:

Planning and Development

900 6th Street
Nevada, Iowa 50201
515-382-7245

pzweb@storycountyiowa.gov

Outreach to Story County High School's Continues through the Ames Economic Development Commission's Workforce Development Initiative

From Drew Kamp—Director, Story County Community Outreach with the AEDC

The Board of Supervisors contract for economic development services with the Ames Economic Development Commission (AEDC) is providing high schools throughout Story County access to businesses and industries that they did not have before. Through their Workforce Development Initiative, the Ames Economic Development Commission has been working with each of the seven community school districts throughout Story County and facilitating relationships and sharing of information between counselors, teachers, and AEDC's business partners to provide students an opportunity to interact with Story County businesses and gain real world knowledge and expertise. This interaction with business professionals is occurring at Career Fairs as well as in the classroom. Career Fairs at Colo-NESCO Junior/Senior High School, Gilbert High School, and Nevada High School have been very successful, and though integrating business professionals into the classroom is in the preliminary stages, it shows much promise and has teachers and students both excited about the future opportunities to expand the curriculum and student experience.

These efforts have been made possible due to the AEDC's strong partnership with Des Moines Area Community College, Story County businesses, and key personnel from each of the community school districts in Story County. While direct integration into classrooms has been focused largely on Industrial Technology/Arts courses, we are confident that additional opportunities in other high demand fields will become available in the near future. With career fairs at Colo-NESCO, Nevada, and Gilbert planned for the spring of 2015, these workforce development efforts will only continue to expand and have a growing impact as we begin the New Year.



Story County Recognized by Governor Terry Branstad as a Certified Connected Community

On Thursday, January 15, 2015, Governor Terry Branstad recognized Story County as a Certified Connected Community, presenting the certification to the Story County Board of Supervisors. At the award ceremony hosted by Connect Iowa and Story County, the County also released its Technology Action Plan. The Connected Community Engagement Program is designed to grow the local economy and improve the quality of life in Story County.

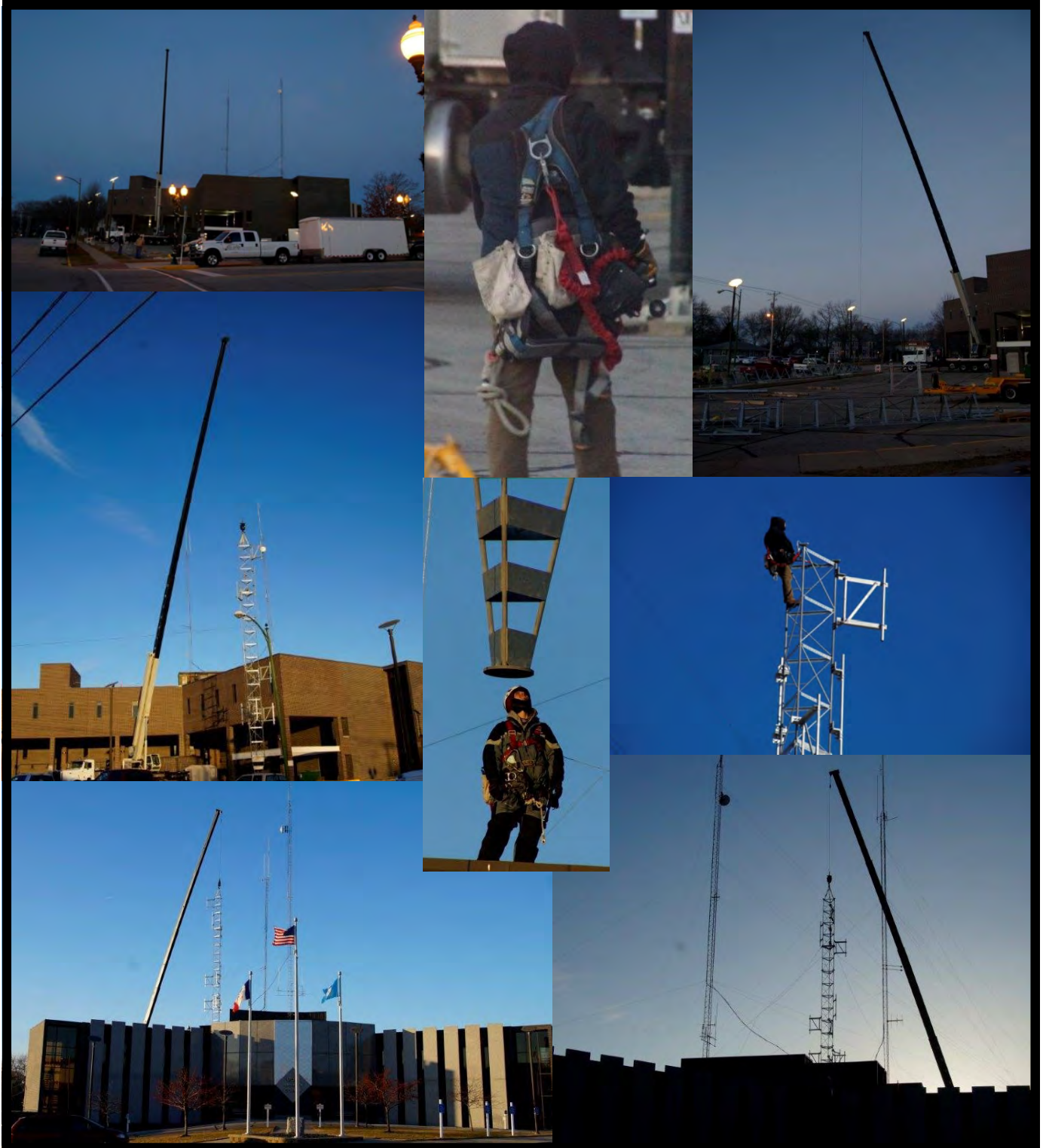
Connect Iowa is a subsidiary of Connected Nation and operates as a nonprofit in the state of Iowa to promote broadband access, adoption, and use. The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) is leading the initiative to increase broadband Internet access throughout rural Iowa. Connect Iowa was commissioned by the state to work with all broadband providers in Iowa to create detailed maps of broadband coverage and develop a statewide plan for the deployment and adoption of broadband.



Tower Replacements at Story County Administration

Have you noticed there are now three towers on the Administration Building in Nevada? Well, that's just temporary! Story County is identifying a contractor to move equipment from the two older towers to the new tower,. The older towers will be removed and one will remain.

When the tower company was on site in December, Facilities Management Director Cal Pearson braved the elements along with them to document their progress!



Hickory Grove Lake Watershed Project Update

By Amy Yoakum, Natural Resource Specialist, Story County Conservation

A WIRB (Watershed Improvement Review Board) grant was received in July to improve water quality at Hickory Grove Lake. The grant will fund practices on private property to reduce nutrient loading into the lake, specifically reducing levels of E. coli bacteria in the water. Two projects are outlined in the grant: upgrading nine unpermitted septic systems in the lake's watershed, and the exclusion of cattle from a stream. Hickory Grove Lake was placed on the Iowa Impaired Waters list in 2008 because of high levels of E. coli bacteria. Pinpointing the exact cause of the bacteria in the water is difficult at best; therefore we are focusing our efforts on every possible culprit including septic systems, livestock and Canada geese.

Margaret Jaynes, Environmental Health Department Director, has been working with homeowners in the watershed to upgrade septic systems. The grant provides 50% cost-share to bring unpermitted septic systems up to code. To date, three septic systems have been replaced, and six more are funded through the grant. A failing septic system not only releases E. coli bacteria, it also releases an estimated 12.5 lbs. /year of phosphorus. Excessive phosphorus in a water body can lead to algae blooms and low dissolved oxygen.

Livestock in waterways can contribute not only E. coli, but excessive sediment (soil) being washed into the lake. Grant funds will restore and stabilize the stream channel, and provide fencing to exclude the cattle from entering it. Cattle are not the only cause of sediment entering the lake. Several gullies inside of Hickory Grove Park have severe erosion problems. Story County Conservation staff are working to correct the gullies by removing invasive species from them and return native vegetation to hold the soil in place.

WIRB grants are funded through the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), and support projects that improve water quality and reduce flooding. In 2014, six grant projects across the state were chosen to be funded, including Hickory Grove Lake. Partners in the watershed project include: Story County Conservation, Story County Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa State University, Story County Board of Supervisors, Story County Board of Health, and private landowners.



Squaw Creek Watershed Management Plan Approved in December 2014



The mission of the Squaw Creek Watershed Management Authority is to engage, educate and encourage all citizens to improve the health, stewardship and resiliency of our watershed resources.

The Squaw Creek Watershed Management Authority involves a team of people from large and small communities, rural and urban areas who share an interest in Squaw Creek. There has been a great deal of work conducted over the past ten years in this watershed culminating in the formation of the Squaw Creek Watershed Management Authority (SCWMA).

The goals of the Squaw Creek WMA are to raise awareness of watershed issues, improve water quality, restore watershed hydrology and to increase the ecological and recreational value of Squaw Creek and its tributaries, all while building off the energy of dedicated partners.

The WMA adopted the Watershed Management Plan in December 2014.

See the full plan at Story County's website at www.storycountyiowa.gov or Prairie Rivers of Iowa's website at www.prrcd.org/squawcreek.



Stay tuned...

Story County and Prairie Rivers of Iowa were invited to submit joint application for a water quality improvement grant. The grant would pay for watershed educational efforts and conservation practices in the Squaw Creek watershed and the East Indian Creek watershed. The grant is administered by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

Volunteering

From the Story County Emergency Management Agency



For more information
on the Story County
Emergency
Management,
please contact:

Keith Morgan



Coordinator
900 6th St.
Nevada, IA 50201

Ph: (515) 382-7315
Fax: (515) 382-7328

Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Office open
depending on staff
availability.

Volunteering. We hear this word every day on the television, radio, social media and maybe even from our friends and family. You may be thinking “What’s in it for me? Why should I volunteer?” Volunteering is not only a way to give back to your community but is a way to develop or expand upon your personal skills and knowledge, develop new friendships and professional contacts, get exercise, spend time outdoors, or just to change up your routine.

There are numerous local, state and national volunteer opportunities available. In order to feel satisfied with your volunteer opportunity you might want to consider the following questions when looking for an organization.

- ◆ Would you like to work with adults, children, or animals, or remotely from home?
- ◆ Do you prefer to work alone or as part of a team?
- ◆ Are you better behind the scenes or do you prefer to take a more visible role?
- ◆ How much time are you willing to commit?
- ◆ How much responsibility are you ready to take on?
- ◆ What skills can you bring a volunteer job?
- ◆ What causes are important to you?

According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, in 2013-2014 more than 6,900 Iowans of all ages and backgrounds are helping to meet local needs, strengthen communities, and increase civic engagement through national service in Iowa. We have highlighted two organization within Story County that have volunteer opportunities available for both organizations and individuals.

If your organization has an interest in or a mission for disaster response and recovery, the Story County Coalition for Disaster Recovery (CDR) is an opportunity for you to act upon that interest. The CDR is an umbrella organization committed to cooperation, coordination, communication, and collaboration between civic groups, faith based organizations, human services and local government in times of disaster. Opportunities within the CDR vary from working in the field with direct response and recovery efforts, such as debris clean-up or volunteer supervision, to behind the scenes as a leader within the CDR to meet the organizational needs with public relations and communications.

Are you an individual who has an interest in assisting during a public health emergency or would like to assist those with access and functional needs in a Red Cross shelter? The Story County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) has volunteer opportunities for medically and non-medically trained individuals. Volunteers may be called upon to support local public health and medical services during a disaster or emergency.

For more information on the Story County CDR at you can contact email them at storycountyiowacdr@gmail.com and the Story County MRC can be contacted at storycountyiowamrc@gmail.com. If you would like to speak with someone by phone you can contact Story County Emergency Management at 515-382-7316.

Be a community hero.

Volunteers make a difference every day in Story County.

Visit us online at **www.storycountyiowa.gov**

Continuity of Government Planning for City & County Government

Have you thought about how your community will continue to function if a tornado struck your City Hall and all of your records are scattered to the wind? Have you planned for how your waste water plants will continue to function when faced with a prolonged power outage? Have you identified services in your community that are essential for the local government to continue when faced with a disaster? We have a course that will help you identify these issues and develop plans for how your local government will remain functional across a spectrum of emergencies.

Story County Emergency Management and the City of Nevada are hosting a Continuity of Government Operations Planning for Rural Communities course provided FREE of charge by the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (RDPC) on Saturday April 4th, 2015 from 8:30AM-5:00PM. This course will assist local government and emergency responders develop plans for how your local government will continue to function when impacted by a disaster or emergency. Special focus will be given to succession planning, delegation of authority, redundant communications, and alternate facilities.

Registration is FREE. Space for the class is limited and is targeted to City and County officials and department heads. Registration deadline is March 20, 2015

This eight-hour course is designed to help government officials and emergency responders from rural communities in the development of plans that will ensure the continuity of essential government functions across a spectrum of emergencies. History demonstrates that disasters and emergencies often interrupt, degrade, or destroy local government's ability to perform essential functions. This is especially true in rural communities where resources are typically limited under the best of circumstances. These jurisdictions must develop plans that address succession planning, redundant communications, and alternate site needs for their communities to face increasingly frequent threats. This tuition free course will expose participants to the benefits of developing continuity of government plans for rural communities with special focus on succession planning, delegation of authority, redundant communications, and alternate facilities.



MGT 416: Continuity of Government Operations Planning for Rural Communities




Continuity of Government Operations Planning for Rural Communities is an eight-hour course designed to help government officials and emergency responders in rural areas with the development of continuity plans that will help officials ensure essential government services remain functional across a spectrum of emergencies. This course will expose participants to the benefits of developing continuity of government plans for rural communities with special focus on succession planning, delegation of authority, redundant communications, and alternate facilities.

Topics covered include but are not limited to:

- Develop or strengthen current continuity plans
- Address resource needs
- Succession planning
- Plan for alternate communications
- Designate alternate facilities
- Authority delegation
- Identify critical equipment needs
- Ensure personnel are properly trained

Public Information and Warning>Please note all foreign nationals need to complete a Department of Homeland Security Foreign National Visitor Request Form in order to attend this course.

Register for your FEMA Student Identification number at:
<https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid>




Saturday, April 4, 2015

Registration Deadline: March 20, 2015

Please sign-up no later than March 20, 2015 as a minimum of 20 registrations must be received by this date to confirm the class will be held. Should you have any questions regarding the local jurisdiction or directions to the facility please contact: Melissa Spencer at Phone: (515) 382-7316, Email: msspencer@storycountyia.gov, or Fax: (515) 382-7328.

Training Sponsored by:
City of Nevada and Story County Emergency Management

Training Site
Gates Memorial Hall / South Room
825 15th St.
Nevada, IA 50201

Registration: 8:00 AM Session: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Prerequisites: US Citizenship

Registration

Click on the link below or copy and paste the link into your browser.

<https://www.ruraltraining.org/training/schedule/2015-04-04-mgt416-nevada-ia-001/>

For more information contact:
Melissa Spencer at Phone: (515) 382-7316,
Email: msspencer@storycountyia.gov, or Fax: (515) 382-7328.

Please remember to bring your FEMA SID number with you to the class. You will need it for registration.

Story County Veterans Affairs is seeking a County Commissioner of Veterans Affairs

is seeking a wartime Veteran willing to serve as a County Commissioner of Veterans Affairs for a three-year term to start on July 1, 2015. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Submit applications and resumes to Brett McLain at 126 South Kellogg Suite 201 Ames, Iowa 50010 or via email at bmclain@storycountyia.gov.



Donations Delivered to the Iowa Veterans Home

Story County residents raised and collected donations in cash checks and items that are needed at the Iowa Veterans Home during the month of November 2014.

This is done each and every November for the Iowa Veterans Home.

On December 5, 2014, Brett McLain, Director of Story County Veterans Affairs, delivered all of the items, cash and checks that were collected in the Story County Treasurer and Veterans Affairs offices during the month of November.

If you are a Veteran or know someone who is, please contact:

Story County Veterans Affairs

**126 S. Kellogg Avenue
Suite 201**

Ames, Iowa 50010

Ph: (515) 956-2625 Fax: (515) 956-2627



Story County employees are wearing red on Fridays to demonstrate support for and honor the men and women in the military.

RED
**REMEMBER
EVERYONE
DEPLOYED**

The Joy Project

Treasurer's Office

Last fall, the Treasurer's Office collected polar fleece to be made into fleece throws for the patients receiving chemo treatment at Bliss Cancer Center. This is a project of the Gilbert quilt group known as The Fabricators and has become referred to as "The Joy Project". The Fabricators is a quilting guild, started in 1994. New members are always welcome and they meet on the third Monday of every month at the Gilbert Lutheran Church at 7 pm.

THE JOY PROJECT is extra special. It all started when Joy (a quilter) was diagnosed with cancer. She got cold as she was going through chemotherapy. The Fabricators evolved from quilting to sewing and tying fleece throw blankets for people like Joy. Through the Joy Project, over 1,600 fleece blankets have been donated to the William R. Bliss Cancer Center-McFarland Clinic in Ames.

In 2013, over 240 throws were donated in all. The demand for the fleece blankets is great, and The Fabricators can hardly keep up. Annually, one or two workshops are held, and throughout the year, members make the fleece blankets at home. The ongoing challenge is funding for the blankets. If you would like to make a donation please contact April West 515-292-1227.



Throughout the month of October, the Treasurer's Office collected fleece and cash donations to go towards the project. In all, the collection came to over 56 yards of fleece and \$185.00 to go to The Joy Project. As an off-shoot of project, a fellow County employee shared information about the project with another group, who, in turn, collected an additional 60+ yards of fleece.

Through experience, The Fabricators have found that two pieces of fleece, 1 1/3 yards, makes a nice sized throw. Approximately 104 blankets will be the result of the fantastic project led by the Treasurer's Office.

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Additional responsibilities of the Board of Supervisors as outlined in the *Code of Iowa* include the roles of Board of Canvassers and Drainage District Trustees. Wearing these hats, we've conducted over 20 more public meetings. As Board members, we also serve appointments on various boards and commissions, and in this capacity, we attended over 220 meetings.

As we started 2014, we put in place a communications plan to enhance the way we communicate both externally with citizens and internally among County employees. We successfully implemented newsletters; quadrant meetings with township trustees, school districts, and city officials; "Get to Know Story County" recordings; a County Outreach and Special Projects Manager position; and more.

In 2014, the Board of Supervisors continued funding for economic development services provided by the Ames Economic Development Commission. In addition, we identified new initiatives to help our smaller communities with Main Street revitalization programs that we will continue in 2015. We also continued to assist our smaller communities with their work on planning and development documents, necessary items for many larger grant programs.

During 2014, we partnered with AEDC and Connect Iowa to work through the Connected Community Engagement Program. This initiative assesses the local broadband landscape, identifies connectivity gaps, and establishes technology-driven goals and objectives to increase broadband access, adoption, and use for families, organizations, and businesses throughout the community. And, last week, Governor Branstad was in Nevada to recognize Story County as a Certified Connected Community, the second County in Iowa to achieve that designation.

Story County formally adopted our first capital improvements plan in 2014, forming our multi-year guide for the construction and/or improvement of county infrastructure and facilities as well as acquisition of equipment. This initial plan incorporated projects through fiscal year 2017 and outlined potential funding sources. With the State's redesign of the mental health funding system into a regional model, the Central Iowa Community Services (CICS) Region was created, including Story County. Full implementation of the regions went into effect July 1, 2014. This meant for Story County a full evaluation of how we will transition, by July 1, 2015, from the County-funded and operated Community Life Program to private sector provision of such services. As part of that study's recommendations, we approved a Transition Support Plan for CLP and hired the CLP Transition Manager to help guide the process.

We continued strengthening our plans and policies in regards to water quality and floodplain management. As the grant recipient of over \$150,000 from the State of Iowa, Story County played an integral role as a member of the Squaw Creek Watershed Management Authority. In December 2014, the Watershed Management Plan was approved with the mission to engage, educate and encourage all citizens to improve the health, stewardship and resiliency of our watershed resources.

Story County Conservation and the Environmental Health Departments were also recipients of State grant funding to address water quality concerns in the Hickory Grove Watershed. Failing (or non-present) on-site septic systems contributing to poor water quality in the Hickory Grove Watershed were identified. A cost-sharing program was created to help fund installation of functioning systems to enhance water quality and successfully implemented by our Environmental Health Department.

The Board of Supervisors further addressed water quality with adoption of a policy requiring septic system disclosure. This disclosure is required at the time individuals apply for zoning and other permits through the Planning and Development Department.



Rick Sanders
Chair

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We started on the path to be recognized by FEMA as a CRS – Community Rating System – community. We have a strong floodplain management program and the CRS designation is the next logical step. The Community Rating System (CRS) offers insurance premium discounts for individuals in communities implementing floodplain management practices that exceed minimum requirements. As part of this, we adopted and have begun to implement a Program for Public Information, and hope to finalize our CRS status by mid-year 2015 so that flood insurance reductions may be realized by our unincorporated residents.

Internally, we looked for opportunities to provide training and other programming to our excellent staff. We hosted open meetings training, continued Safety Training Days, started bi-annual blood drives through the American Red Cross, and implemented Red Shirt Fridays to demonstrate support for and honor the men and women in the military.

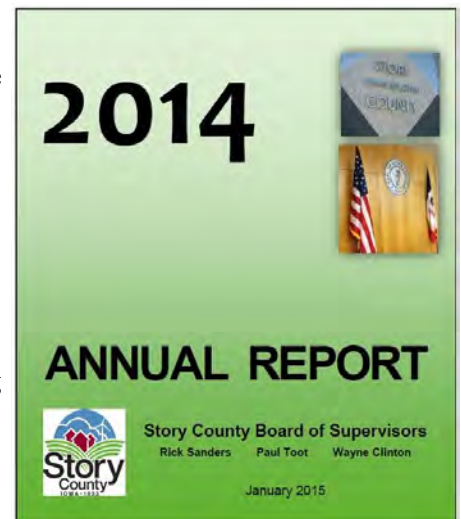
We come into 2015 with opportunities yet challenges to face.

When my fellow Supervisor Paul Toot addressed you a year ago, he shared that one of our top challenges in 2014 was to ensure Story County continued to provide services from CLP throughout regional transition as uninterrupted as possible while maintaining existing levels. The transition will occur this spring will full provision of the services by an entity other than Story County prior to July 1st. Our work continues on this through the next few months. We must keep those using these key services at the forefront and help transition impacted County staff as successfully and appropriately as possible to future opportunities.

We will continue building on our long-standing Conservation programming as well. The expanded Dakins Lake will re-open this spring, and we welcome having campsites that are continually booked and witnessing the positive economic impacts to Zearing and Northeast Story County resulting from the County's investments to the area. But, beyond that, we are planning for the future, designing a trail system that provides logical extensions and connections for recreational as well as commuter uses. Story County is at the table with the City of Ames and Iowa State as the ISU Research Park expands. We are developing a park system and trails plan that will help Story County continue to be an attractive place to live and work and also serve as a showcase and demonstration site as to how environmental and economic development practices can work together for the good of all.

We are continuing to build on the planning efforts that have taken place over the past four years, embarking on an effort to create the C2C Project – From Cornerstone to Capstone, Story County's coordinated long range plan. The C2C Project will act as a blueprint to direct the future growth and development of Story County.

Story County is in a strong position for a bright future. That said we face our share of challenges. Internally, we face the task of implementing changes brought on by recently released rules in the Affordable Care Act that necessitate a complete change in the way Story County offers Health Insurance to our employees. But our primary challenge is our transportation system. We have over 1000 miles and more than 250 bridges in our road system, many of the bridges are more than 50 years old and nearing the end of their useful life. The plain fact is funding is currently insufficient to maintain that entire system over the long-term. We all must keep in mind that investments in our core infrastructure – most notably our roads and bridges – are a primary role of government and necessary in order to keep our economic outlook positive. Statewide funding changes will hopefully be passed in this Legislative session which will positively affect how we meet the needs of our aging transportation system.



We are pleased to release the 2014 Annual Report of the Story County Board of Supervisors. The Annual Report details accomplishments and key highlights from 2014. You may view it online at www.storycountyiowa.gov.

**Story County,
Iowa**

900 6th Street
Nevada, Iowa 50201
Phone: 515-382-7200



Visit us online at
www.storycountyiowa.gov



Story County, Iowa
or
Joseph Story



@storycountyiowa

Wanted Citizens to Serve on Boards and Commissions

The Board of Supervisors seeks gender balance on all Boards and Commissions and would like to encourage citizens who may be interested in serving on a Board or Commission in the future to complete an application that can be kept on file.

You can apply at www.storycounty.iowa.gov
and select Boards and Commissions.